

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC 1101

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, OECD

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF U.S. TRADE DATA TAPES TO THE OECD

1. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. MISSION, OECD SECRETARIAT HAS RAISED ISSUE OF TRANSMITTAL TO THE OECD OF U.S. TRADE DATA TAPES. MISSION UNDERSTANDS FROM SECRETARIAT THAT AT PRESENT OECD DOES NOT RECEIVE U.S. TRADE TAPES DIRECTLY FROM U.S., BUT RATHER RELIES ON INDIRECT TRANSMISSION THROUGH UN STATISTICAL OFFICE IN GENEVA PURSUANT TO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OECD AND UN UNDER WHICH NO CHARGE IS MADE TO OECD. REASON FOR THIS INDIRECT CIRCUIT IS THAT WHILE UN RECEIVES TRADE TAPES FREE OF PAYMENT FROM THE USG, OECD WOULD BE CHARGED IF IT WERE TO PROCURE DIRECTLY FROM USG.

2. OECD SECRETARIAT WOULD APPRECIATE DIRECT RECEIPT OF TRADE TAPES FROM THE USG FREE OF CHARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

(A) TAPES EMERGE FROM UN WITH STATISTICAL MODIFICATIONS WHICH RENDER DATA LESS ACCEPTABLE FROM OECD STANDPOINT;

(B) THE OECD IS DEPENDENT ON GOODWILL OF UN TO CONTINUE RECEIVING TAPES WITHOUT CHARGE. IT WOULD PREFER DIRECT ACCESS TO USG, AS IS THE CASE WITH ALL OTHER MEMBER GOVERNMENTS;

(C) ALL OTHER OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES PROVIDE TRADE
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DATA DIRECTLY TO OECD WITHOUT CHARGE;

(D) ROUTING OF TAPES THROUGH UN RESULTS IN DELAY IN
RECEIPT BY OECD (ALTHOUGH DELAY IS USUALLY NOT
EXCESSIVE).

3. COMMENTS: MISSION BELIEVES THAT THE REQUEST OF THE
OECD SECRETARIAT IS REASONABLE AND PERSUASIVE. MISSION
RECOMMENDS THAT USG PROCEDURES BE REVIEWED WITH OBJECTIVE
OF GRANTING OECD DIRECT ACCESS TO U.S. TRADE DATA TAPES,
THUS GIVING OECD SAME TREATMENT IT NOW RECEIVES FROM ITS
OTHER MEMBERS.
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